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ACTION ARA-16

INFO	OCT-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	INR-10	EUR-12	SS-10	CIAE-00
	DODE-00	H-01	IO-15	NSC-01	NSAE-00	SY-06	HA-08
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R 241620Z MAR 83
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6771
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
USMISSION GENEVA

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 01852

GENEVA ALSO PASS TO INTERPOL

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PINS, SHUM, AR, SZ
SUBJ: SWITZERLAND REFUSES TO EXTRADITE ALLEGED ARGENTINE
KIDNAPPERS

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044;
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full
☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to _____
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

1. (U) THE BA PRESS REPORTED MARCH 23 THAT SWITZERLAND HAS REJECTED A REQUEST BY AN ARGENTINE COURT FOR THE EXTRADITION OF FIVE ARGENTINES IMPLICATED IN KIDNAPPINGS HERE IN 1979 AND 1981. A SWISS COURT RULED IN DECEMBER AND NOTIFIED THE GOA IN WRITING MARCH 14 THAT THE ARGENTINES, JAILED IN SWITZERLAND SINCE 1981, MIGHT COME TO HARM IF THEY ARE RETURNED HERE. EXISTENCE OF THE STATE OF SIEGE, ARGENTINA'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD, AND CLAIMS BY THE ACCUSED THAT THEY WERE CONNECTED WITH ARGENTINE INTELLIGENCE AND ACTING ON SUPERIOR ORDERS WHEN THEY ALLEGEDLY PARTICIPATED IN THE KIDNAPPINGS, WERE CITED BY THE SWISS COURT FOR DENIAL OF EXTRADITION.

2. (U) THE CASE BROUGHT TO LIGHT THE HERETOFORE UNPUBLISHED KIDNAPPING AND RANSOM OF TWO PROMINENT BUENOS AIRES

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BANKING FIGURES. INVOLVED WERE FERNANDO COMBAL, KIDNAPPED IN BUENOS AIRES IN MAY 1979 AND RANSOMED QUIETLY

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FOR \$1 MILLION BY HIS FAMILY, AND THE URUGUAYAN FINANCIER CARLOS DAVID KILDOBSKY, SEIZED HERE BY AN ARMED GROUP FEBRUARY 20, 1981. THE \$1.5 MILLION RANSOM FOR KILDOBSKY WAS ARRANGED BY HIS FAMILY FOR PICKUP IN MARCH 1981 AT A BANK IN ZURICH, AT WHICH TIME THE FIRST ARRESTS WERE MADE IN THE CASE. BA PRESS ACCOUNTS OF MARCH 23 QUOTED THE SWISS COURT AS SAYING THREE OF THE FIVE ARGENTINES ARRESTED CLAIMED TO HAVE ACTED AS PARAMILITARY ELEMENTS ON BEHALF OF ARGENTINE INTELLIGENCE GROUPS TO FINANCE THE WAR AGAINST SUBVERSION. THE ARGENTINES ALSO ARE SAID TO CLAIM THEY TRAVELED TO SWITZERLAND TO COLLECT THE RANSOM ON ORDERS FROM THEIR SUPERIORS.

3. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE CASE HAS SEVERAL CURIOUS ANGLES, THE FIRST BEING WHY IT WAS MADE PUBLIC BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HERE. WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH THE SWISS EMBASSY AND HAVE TO ASSUME THAT IT'S BECAUSE A FEDERAL COURT HAD TO DEAL WITH CLAIMS FROM THE FAMILIES IN WHICH INTERPOL AND AT LEAST ONE OTHER GOVERNMENT WERE INVOLVED. ANOTHER HAS TO DO WITH THE ACCUSED THEMSELVES. ONE, RUBEN OSVALDO BUFANO, TOLD THE SWISS COURT, AS PUBLISHED HERE, THAT HE WAS FOLLOWING ORDERS OF THE ARMY'S 601ST INTELLIGENCE BATTALION WHEN HE PARTICIPATED IN THE KIDNAPPINGS AND LATER ACCEPTED AN ASSIGNMENT TO PICK UP THE RANSOM IN SWITZERLAND. A SECOND, LUIS ALBERTO MARTINEZ, TOLD THE SWISS HE IS A MEMBER OF THE GOA'S NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIDE) AND WAS ASSIGNED TO WATCH BUFANO DURING THE PICKUP OPERATION. TWO OTHERS, LEANDRO AND MARIANA REISSE, WERE ARGENTINE NATIONALS RESIDENT IN MIAMI WHO FOR SOME REASON WENT TO SWITZERLAND TO JOIN BUFANO, MARTINEZ AND AMALIA MARIA COVA, THE FIFTH MEMBER OF THE GROUP NOW IN JAIL IN [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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ZURICH. ALL, THE SWISS TELL US PRIVATELY, ARE AFRAID THEY WILL PHYSICALLY BE ELIMINATED - - "DISAPPEARED" - - IF THEY ARE RETURNED HERE. SWISS EMBASSY OFFICERS ALLOW, AS WE WOULD, THAT THE ACCUSED ARE SIMPLY FREEBOOTERS UNCONNECTED WITH ANY OFFICIAL AGENCY HERE WHO CLAIM SUCH A CONNECTION TO ESCAPE LONG PRISON TERMS IN ARGENTINA. BUT THEIR FEARS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN CONVINCING ENOUGH TO PERSUADE A SWISS COURT NOT TO EXTRADITE THEM. IN ANY CASE IT'S ANOTHER BLACK EYE FOR THE GOA. SHLAUDEMAN
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